

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 30, 2006 and the Advisory Action dated December 15, 2006, have been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1-6, 8-13, 22-27, 29-34, 43-54 and 59-62 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 8, 11, 22, 29, 32, 43 and 51 are amended. Support for the subject matter of the amendments to the claims can be found in the specification at least at, for example, page 6, lines 1-14. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 8-13, 22-27, 29-34, 43-54 and 59-62 under 35 U.S. § 112, first paragraph. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As argued in the first response filed on October 30, 2006, the Office Action's position that "the applicant must be less than ordinary skill in the art" is insufficient to support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The determination of whether a claim may be rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is unrelated to the Applicants' skill level, and therefore the Office Action's statement is irrelevant to this determination. The test, as clearly defined in the statute and the MPEP (§§ 2163.02 and 2163.04) is whether a person skilled in the art would be able to make and use the invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action has failed to meet its initial burden of showing that this condition is not met. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejections claims 1-6, 8-13, 22-27, 29-34, 43-46, 49, 51-54 and 59-62 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Holm (U.S. Patent No. 5,850,629) in view of Simpson ("Mastering Word Perfect 5.1 and 5.2 for Windows") and Dictionary. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, the Office Action seems to interpret the claimed subject matter as being embodied in a mere conversion of text to speech. However, a closer examination of the subject matter of the claims shows that, among other things, the independent claims recite a feature of selecting an electronic book for viewing from a list of available books stored in an operations center and modules to select an electronic book for viewing from a list of available books. Although the Office Action alleges that Holm teaches this feature and points to column 10, lines 29-32 of Holm, a closer examination of this portion of the reference indicates that Holm merely teaches the presence of a text, such as a book, that could be loaded into the local buffer, and that text could then be transcribed into speech. However, Holm fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of selecting an electronic book from a list of available electronic books stored in an operations center, as recited in the claims 1, 8, and 11 and similar features in claims 22, 29, 32, 43 and 51. Thus, the subject matter of these independent claims, and of their dependent claims, is allowable over Holm for at least this reason.

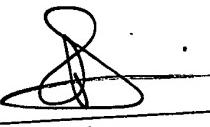
Simpson at the cited reference, merely teaches a manual for using WordPerfect 5.1 and 5.2 for Windows, and fails to cure the deficiencies in Holm in disclosing or rendering obvious selecting an electronic book for view from a list of available electronic books stored in an operations center, as recited in the independent claims.

Accordingly, a combination of the applied references does not disclose or suggest independent claims 1, 8 and 11. Thus, these claims, and their dependent claims, are patentable over a combination of the applied references. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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